

# *Congressman*

## *J. Randy Forbes*

### *Fourth District of Virginia*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### *Forbes announces \$7.4 million for Chesapeake*

#### *House passes 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill*

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that Chesapeake would receive **\$7.4 million** in federal funding for several important projects in the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

- Dominion Boulevard/Route 104
- Gilmerton Bridge
- Chesapeake Police Department – expenses incurred during John Lee Malvo trial and law enforcement technologies

“This is wonderful news for Chesapeake, and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia,” Forbes said. “We are very excited to receive this funding during the tough times we are in as a nation, and also amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth.”

**Dominion Boulevard/Route 104**, part of the National Highway System, connects Interstates 64 and 464 with U.S. Route 17 South in Chesapeake. **\$3 million** would be appropriated through this legislation to design a replacement of the “Steel Bridge”, a two-lane drawbridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway with a high-rise, fixed-span bridge and widening the existing road section to four lanes. The new bridge would replace the existing moveable bridge.

The **Gilmerton Bridge** is an important bridge serving since 1938 as the crossing of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River (Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway) for U.S. Route 13/Military Highway. **\$4 million** would be appropriated for the construction of a new four-lane bridge with an increased vertical clearance between the bridge and the water, thereby reducing the number of openings for maritime traffic. Reduced openings result in greater capacity, less vehicular congestion and will enhance safety.

The **Chesapeake Police Department** will receive **\$200,000** for law enforcement expenses. This funding would help the city to pay for law enforcement services, including those incurred this year from the trial of Lee Boyd Malvo in Chesapeake. The department will also receive **\$200,000** for the purchase of mobile laptop computers for use in the police cars. These computers can be connected directly to state and federal databases, which allow officers to make checks on suspects and stolen items without the necessity of being slowed down through routing through the communications system.

City of Chesapeake Mayor William E. Ward stated, "Congressman Forbes has worked so diligently, with the City and on behalf of the citizens of Chesapeake, in securing funding for critical transportation improvements such as Dominion Boulevard and the Gilmerton Bridge. Today's news of funding approved in the House-passed omnibus bill, is yet another example of Randy's effectiveness in advancing these key projects. The funding for our police department will offset some of the local costs for the trial of Lee Boyd Malvo and will certainly help ease the financial burden borne by Chesapeake residents."

On behalf of the City of Chesapeake, Forbes requested funding for these projects from the House Appropriations Committee earlier this year. The Omnibus Appropriations bill now goes before the Senate, and then to the President to be signed into law.

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